

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 40, 43-45, and 50 as follows:

C1

40. (Amended) A method for automatic information collecting by an electronic intermediary comprising:

- connecting electronically said electronic intermediary to an information provider;
- collecting electronically information from said information provider;
- processing electronically the information collected electronically from said information provider to obtain processed information; and
- preparing electronically an electronic information report using the processed information.

1 43. (Amended) An apparatus as in claim 42, wherein said form is an IRS Form W-2.

C2 8 44. (Amended) An apparatus as in claim 42, wherein said form is an IRS Form 1099.

9 45. (Amended) An apparatus as in claim 42, wherein said form is an IRS Form 1098.

C3 50. (Amended) A method for automatic tax collecting by an electronic intermediary comprising:

- connecting electronically said electronic intermediary to a tax data provider;
- collecting electronically tax data from said tax data provider, wherein said tax data is reported on an Internal Revenue Service ("IRS"), state, local, or foreign tax form;